

Disposition of Remains **in Dubai and the Northern Emirates**

This information sheet contains basic information on how to take care of human remains in Dubai and the northern Emirates in the unfortunate event of death of an American citizen while in the UAE. For further information and/or assistance please contact the American Citizen Services unit of the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai by calling +971-4-309-4000.

A) NOTIFY THE POLICE AND THE U.S. CONSULATE

Upon discovery of a death, notify the nearest police station immediately (not required if the death occurs in a hospital). The police will arrange for an ambulance to transport the body to either Rashid Hospital or Al-Muhaisnah Medical Fitness Centre located at Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Rd , Al-Muhaisnah 2 (both have refrigerated mortuary facilities) or to the General Department of Forensic and Criminology located at Dubai Police General Headquarters.

Contact the American Citizen Services unit of the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai by calling +971-4-309-4000. The consular section will direct you to the proper UAE authorities and assist you in collecting the necessary documents. In addition, it will issue (at no charge) a Consular Report of Death Abroad of an American citizen, which satisfies most legal requirements of a United States Death Certificate.

B) MAXIMUM PERIOD ALLOWED BEFORE BURIAL: UAE law requires local burial to be carried out within two weeks of death. However, remains may be held in refrigeration for a longer period if circumstances warrant an investigation into the reasons of death or in the case of an unidentified or unclaimed body.

C) LOCAL CHRISTIAN BURIAL: The Holy Trinity Church in Dubai (Tel: +971-4-3370247, point of contact Ms. Maureen Palanna or Mr. Johnson, George. Friday or Saturday, call +971-4-3374947). Permission to be buried locally must be obtained from cemetery management, the local police and the Dubai Municipality. Please note that before granting such permission, the local police will request to see a letter from the U.S. Consulate stating that the Consulate has no objection to the burial of the remains locally. The Consulate will issue the letter at no charge. Burial at the Christian cemetery for Adults costs 1100 Dhms (~ \$300USD) and For Children 7 under 350 Dhms (~ \$95USD).

D) EMBALMING: Embalming is available at Al-Muhaisnah Medical Fitness Centre, Tel: +971-4-5023910 or +971 4 502 3939 which is located next to Al Qusais Cemetery at a cost of AED 1020 (~277USD). Since the type of embalmment performed in the UAE is effective for a maximum of four to seven days, the clinic will only complete the procedure twelve to twenty-four hours prior to burial or exportation. In the event of

exportation, a letter from the airline indicating a confirmed reservation is required. The cost of transportation to the Airport is AED 220. Embalming standards in the UAE are at a lower level than is expected in the U.S. and a number of American citizens have complained of leakage.

E) CREMATION: In general, UAE law does not permit cremation. However, the local authorities in Dubai and Sharjah will usually grant permission to cremate remains provided that the deceased was a legal resident/visitor of the respective city. There are no cremation facilities in any of the other northern Emirates. However, permission may be obtained from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior to transfer the body from any of the northern Emirates to Dubai - where a no-objection letter can be obtained from the police and cremation performed.

The crematorium in Dubai is managed by Regal Traders (located behind the Bur Dubai Museum), Tel: +971-4-353-2320 or Tel: +971-50-5071640 Mr. Sunil Parwani. Cremation at this facility is performed according to Hindu tradition. The crematorium in Sharjah is managed by the Sharjah Municipality, Tel: +971-6-543-7788, ext 1534.

The documentation necessary for cremation is as follows:

- A photocopy of the deceased's passport and death certificate.
- A no-objection letter from the deceased's Embassy/Consulate.
- A letter from deceased's next of kin addressed to the police requesting permission for cremation.
- A no-objection letter from the police authorizing the cremation.
- If the cremation will be performed in Dubai, an application form must be obtained from Regal Traders. Regal Traders charges AED3000 (approx. USD 817 USD) for the cremation of an adult and AED 350 (approx. USD 95) for children under 7 years for burial.

F) CASKETS AND CONTAINERS: Caskets can be obtained at Regal Traders or at Al-Muhaisnah Medical Fitness Centre at a cost of AED 1700 (approx. USD 463).

G) EXPORT OF REMAINS: The local police, hospital, and the U.S. Consulate work together to prepare the documentation and clearances required for the export of remains to the U.S. Local requirements for the export of human remains are:

- A death certificate issued by the UAE Ministry of Health - Department of Preventive Medicine at Al Baraha Hospital, Tel: +971-4-273-1161. The certificate costs AED 60 (approx. USD 17).
- Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad issued by the U.S. Consulate
- Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by the U.S. Consulate
- Affidavit by the local mortuary

- A letter addressed To Whom It May Concern, stating that the Consulate has no objection to the shipment of the remains to the U.S.
- A letter from the police to the Director of Immigration and Customs, stating the destination of the remains. This letter will assist the next of kin with canceling the deceased's residence/visit visa and obtain permission to exit.
- An embalming and sealing letter (issued by the police).
- A no-objection certificate to release the remains for shipment (issued by police).

Note: Samples of most of the above documents are attached

H) AIRPORT HANDLING SERVICE: The hospital will deliver the remains to the airport six hours prior to flight departure, at cost of AED 220.

Revised (26 September 2016)